

**House Study Bill 179 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON COMMERCE BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON COWNIE)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for an exemption of internet protocol-enabled  
2 service from the regulatory authority of the utilities board  
3 of the utilities division of the department of commerce.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 476.1, Code 2013, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 5A. *a.* Notwithstanding any other provision  
4 to the contrary, a department, agency, board, or political  
5 subdivision of the state shall not by rule, order, or other  
6 means directly or indirectly regulate the entry, rates, terms,  
7 or conditions for internet protocol-enabled service. For the  
8 purposes of this subsection, "*internet protocol-enabled service*"  
9 means any service, capability, functionality, or application  
10 that uses internet protocol or any successor protocol and  
11 enables an end user to send or receive voice, data, or video  
12 communication in internet protocol format or a successor  
13 format.

14 *b.* This subsection shall not be construed to modify or  
15 affect the application or enforcement of a law or rule that  
16 may apply generally to the conduct of business in this state,  
17 including but not limited to consumer protection and unfair or  
18 deceptive trade practice laws and rules.

19 EXPLANATION

20 This bill exempts internet protocol-enabled service from  
21 the regulatory authority of the Iowa utilities board. The  
22 bill defines "*internet protocol-enabled service*" to mean any  
23 service, capability, functionality, or application that uses  
24 internet protocol or any successor protocol and enables an end  
25 user to send or receive voice, data, or video communication in  
26 internet protocol format or a successor format.

27 The bill states that, notwithstanding any other provision  
28 to the contrary, a department, agency, board, or political  
29 subdivision of the state may not by rule, order, or other means  
30 directly or indirectly regulate the entry, rates, terms, or  
31 conditions for internet protocol-enabled service. The bill  
32 specifies that this provision shall not be interpreted to  
33 modify or affect the application or enforcement of a law or  
34 rule that may apply generally to the conduct of business in  
35 Iowa, including but not limited to consumer protection and

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1 unfair or deceptive trade practice laws and rules.